

Patent Application 09/546,909
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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §102

In paragraph 3 of his report, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,056 (hereinafter called Bugnon).

The invention of claim 1 is a method for handling global challenge authentication registration in a cellular telecommunications network. The method comprises the steps of receiving at a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) a registration message from a mobile station and determining whether or not the MSC has capabilities for bypassing global challenge authentication. If the MSC has capabilities for bypassing global challenge authentication, the method verifies whether or not a Visitor Location Register (VLR) relating to the MSC has a record for the mobile station from which the registration message has been received. If so, the method bypasses the global challenge authentication for the mobile station, else the method performs the global challenge authentication. Furthermore, if the MSC does not have capabilities for bypassing global challenge authentication, the method performs the global challenge authentication for the mobile station from which the registration message has been received.

Bugnon relates to a system and method for reducing network signaling load in a radio telecommunications network. The system comprises a home network with a Home Location Register (HLR) and an Authentication Center (AC) and a visited network with a serving MSC and a VLR. The system further comprises means for forwarding one or more authentication requests from the visited network to the home network, means for determining, in the home network upon detecting an authentication failure, that a

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threshold value associated with the network access attempts is triggered. Bugnon further comprises means for sending a return message including an authentication code portion from the home network to the serving MSC, and means in the visited network, responsive to the return message, for locally authenticating the roaming subscriber based upon the authentication code portion received, when the roaming subscriber attempts to re-access the radio telecommunications network system.

However, Bugnon does not teach a method for determining if a MSC is capable of bypassing a global challenge authentication. Bugnon merely describes a method and system for locally authenticating a roaming mobile station based on a return message for informing the home network that access to the mobile station in the visiting network is denied (exceed threshold value, column 3). Furthermore, Bugnon does not disclose a MSC that bypasses a global challenge authentication of a mobile station based on a verification if whether a VLR relating to the MSC has a record for a mobile station. In Bugnon, the MSC performs local authentication regardless a verification to a related VLR.

Briefly, since Bugnon does not disclose whole or parts of the claimed invention, Bugnon cannot possibly anticipate the invention of claim 1. Also, it can be appreciated that independent claim 8 is a node claim for executing the method of claim 1, which comprises similar limitations as described in claim 1. Thus, claim 8 is believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support of claim 1. Claims 2-7 and 9-12 depend directly or ultimately from claims 1 and 8 while adding further limitations and therefore they are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support to claims 1 and 8.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favourable action for all pending claims.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-13 are thus in condition for favourable action. If the Examiner would find that the further prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned at (514) 345-7891.

Respectfully submitted,

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